

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

March 16, 2010

According to the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC), developing programs that allow voters to opt out of receiving sample ballots, ballot pamphlets, and notices of polling place by mail and providing them with the choice of receiving these materials via electronic mail or by accessing a website would promote a more efficient and contemporary vehicle for delivering important voter information to the County's voters. The County of Los Angeles currently spends approximately \$5 million to \$8 million in printing and mailing costs associated with sample ballots. Such innovative programs could produce significant savings by reducing the number of hard copy sample ballots printed and mailed every election. In addition, these programs could potentially increase voter participation by making important voter information more accessible via the internet and electronic mail. A reduction in sample ballot printing would also promote environmental benefits by reducing the enormous amount of paper material that is generated in every election.

MOTION

Ridley-Thomas _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Knabe _____

Antonovich _____

Molina _____

A recent study by the Pew Research Center's found that 74 percent of American adults report using the internet and current statistics from the RR/CC indicate that its website receives between 40,000 to 60,000 inquiries per month and the use of online services by the public continues to steadily increase.

On February 2, 2010, Assembly Member Kevin de León introduced AB 1717, which would authorize county and city officials to establish procedures that would allow voters to opt out of receiving voting materials by regular mail and instead obtain those materials via email or by accessing the county's or city's websites. AB 1717 also would specify that voter's electronic addresses can only be used by election officials for purposes of transmitting these election materials and require election officials to establish a procedure that would allow voters to opt to receive election materials by mail if they so desire.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to express the County's support for AB 1717, and direct the Sacramento advocates to actively promote its passage.

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